

FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU (FOB)

TRANSMITTAL NUMBER: 99-10 (CA)

November 22, 1999

TO: All Field Operations Bureau and Performance
Measurement County Quality Control and Corrective
Action Staff

SUBJECT/PURPOSE: FFY 2000 Deduction/Allowance Amounts in the Food
Stamp Program

RELATED REFERENCE: All-County Letter 99-71, FNS Handbook 310 section
741.2

SUPERSEDES: Transmittal 98-23(F)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1999 Sample Month

BACKGROUND:

The Food Stamp Act of 1977 (as amended) requires the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) annually adjust allotment amounts, eligibility standards, and program deduction and allowance amounts to reflect changes in the cost of living. The Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2000 (October 1, 1999 – September 30, 2000) adjustments are:

- Standard Deduction: \$134 (no change)
- Shelter Deduction: \$275 (no change)
- Homeless Household Shelter Allowance: \$143 (no change)
- Standard Utility Allowance: \$163 (increased from \$158)

These changes are effective October 1, 1999 for all cases. If the county is unable to implement these changes with the October 1999 issuance, adjustments for lost benefits must be done as soon as administratively feasible but no later than the December 1999 issuance. Benefits are to be restored back to October 1, 1999.

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INSTRUCTIONS:

FOB/PMC Quality Control Staff:

Effective with the October 1999 sample month, use the amounts listed above along with the revised Tables of Coupon Issuance to determine eligibility and benefit levels for FFY 2000 cases. If the county did not implement these changes in October or implemented them incorrectly, per Section 741.2 of the FNS Handbook 310, count any resulting errors as included variances.

County Corrective Action Staff:

If the county uses an automated system, verify that these changes have been programmed into the computer system. If manual budgeting is used, make sure that line staff and case reviewers are using these new figures and the revised Tables of Coupon Issuance.

INQUIRIES:

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Original signed by Tom Benson

**TOM BENSON, Chief
Field Operations Bureau**